

REMARKS

Claims 108-164 are pending in the above-captioned patent application following this amendment. Claims 2, 4-10, 14-16, 18, 23-24, 31, 33, 35-41, 44-46, 48, 52-53, 59-60 and 81-107 were rejected. Claims 2, 4-12, 14-31, 33, 35-60 and 81-107 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 108-154 have been added by this amendment for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the goals of the Patent Office pursuant to 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), even though the Applicants believe that the previously pending claims were allowable. Additionally, a Request for Continued Examination has been filed concurrently herewith.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed application, including the originally filed claims, the drawings and the specification. More specifically, support for new claims 108-164 can be found at least in claims 1, 6, 10-12, 16, 18, 34, 35, 39-42, 46, 48, 59-70 and 81-107, in Figures 1, 2A-2E and 3A-3C, and in the specification at page 7, line 27 through page 12, line 16, and at page 13, line 17 through page 14, line 19.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Consideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 5-10, 14-16, 18, 23, 31, 35-40, 44-46, 48, 52, 59-60, 81-82, 85-87, 89-90, 93-95, 97-104 and 106-107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boutaghou et al (WO 99/05672). Claims 2, 5-10, 14-16, 18, 23, 31, 35-40, 44-46, 48, 52, 59-60, 81-82, 85-87, 89-90, 93-95, 97-104 and 106-107 have been canceled without prejudice by this amendment. Therefore the rejection of these claims is believed to be moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 24, 33, 41, 53, 83-84, 88, 91-92, 96 and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Boutaghou et al (WO 99/05672). Claims 4, 24, 33, 41, 53, 83-84, 88, 91-92, 96 and 105 have been canceled without prejudice by this amendment. Thus, the rejection of these claims is believed to be moot.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 108-164 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In addition, allowance of any generic claims results in examination of any previously withdrawn claims which depend directly or indirectly from such generic claim(s). The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-487-4077 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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